



Arizona Department of Public Safety

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- For Immediate Release -
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Arizona Department of Public Safety Border Crimes Interdiction Team (BCIT)

In September 2007 the Department of Public Safety Canine Unit partnered with the Gang & Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (G.I.T.E.M.) to form the Border Crimes Interdiction Team (BCIT) in response to various felony crimes committed on the U.S.-Arizona border. This unit is comprised of experienced officers and canine handlers. Their focus is to deter, disrupt drug trafficking, human smuggling, and vehicle theft organizations which operate along the international border. Officers from BCIT Unit are assigned in Pinal, Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise counties.

To date members of the BCIT unit have accomplished the following:

Seizures:

Marijuana	8,150 pounds
Methamphetamine	2.3 pounds
Cash	\$192,516
Stolen vehicles	67
Undocumented Aliens to U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement	820
Arrests	182

“BCIT officers work daily to disrupt and dismantle the human smuggling and drug smuggling organizations by stopping them before they make it into our communities. By disrupting the work of these criminal organizations BCIT officers are helping to make the communities of Arizona safer places to live. I envision expanding this team to cover all the southern Arizona counties to continue to fight against crimes that are committed along the border.” stated Lieutenant J. Leos, unit commander.

For further information on the Border Crimes Interdiction Team you may contact Lt. J.A. Leos at:

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